



## City of Baker School Board Public Hearing/Meeting September 5, 2023

### MINUTES

The City of Baker School Board held a public hearing beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

President Burges called the meeting to order and explained to visitors the process for speaking on action agenda items is to request a comment card from Mrs. Debbie Dedeaux. Write your name on the card as well as the number of the agenda item you wish to speak on and return the card to Mrs. Dedeaux. She will bring the card up to the Board President at the appropriate time. Visitors will be allowed two (2) minutes to speak.

President Burges explained the purpose of the public hearing was to consider approval of the City of Baker School Board proposed operating budget for 2023-2024.

Mrs. Sidney Stewart, Business Manager, provided an overview of the proposed operating budget for 2023-2024, and the floor was opened for questions from the public. Following questions, on motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to close the public hearing and go into the public meeting. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

President Burges called the public meeting to order and explained the process to be used by any member of the public wishing to speak on an agenda item.

President Burges took roll call:

Perkins: Present  
Profit: Present  
Joseph: Present  
Butler: Present  
Burges: Present

President Burges announced there was a quorum and the meeting would proceed.

Silent Meditation/Prayer was led by Mrs. Burges followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mrs. Joseph.

President Burges welcomed all visitors to the meeting and referenced the quote at the top of the agenda, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." -- Malcolm X

President Burges called on Board Member Alteen Profit, and Board Vice President, Monique Butler who recognized persons who had been instrumental in making the "Back-to-School Supply Giveaway" held July 29<sup>th</sup> so successful.

Mrs. Profit:

Walmart  
Shoppers Value (Mr. Lee)  
Baker Chevron (Mr. Ricky)  
Baker Rotary Club  
Bishop Ricky Sinclair, Miracle Place Church

Ms. Butler:

American Mortgage  
Baker Texaco  
Brightside Rehabilitation Center  
Dr. Toni Jackson  
Councilwoman Brenda G. Jackson

On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Profit, the Board voted to approve the agenda as presented. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

**Action Items:**

1. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 1, 2023. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
2. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the minutes from the special meeting of August 7, 2023. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, and Burges. Voting no: Joseph.
3. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to approve property insurance for August 31, 2023 through August 31, 2024. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
4. On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Profit, the Board voted to approve the 2023-2024 City of Baker School System Operating Budget. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
5. On motion of Mrs. Profit seconded by Ms. Butler, the Board voted to approve the settlement of a personal injury matter involving Joann Rogers. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.
6. On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to approve the following Exceptional Student Services (ESS) contracts:
  - a. Contract with Empower Physical Therapy and Wellness for Physical Therapy services.

- b. Contract with Step-by-Step Therapeutic Services for Adapted Physical Education (APE) services.
- c. Contract with Mary Thibodeaux as a Gifted/Talented and Homebound Teacher

Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

7. On motion of Ms. Butler seconded by Mrs. Joseph, the Board voted to award the bid for lawn care services to Rotolo Consultants during the 2023-2024 school year. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.

### **Information Items:**

1. Superintendent's Report on Personnel  
A report on all personnel actions was provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
2. LSU Attendance  
The district is working with Dr. Judith Rhodes, Director of the Social Research and Evaluation Center at LSU, and Dr. Gwen Murray on an attendance project for the 2023-2024 school year to promote good school attendance by students. This project, paid for by the Louisiana Department of Education, not only concentrates on truancy but on chronic absenteeism as well.
3. Policy B-4 Officers of the Board – Policy Review  
The Board was provided a copy of *School Board Policy B-4 Officers of the Board* as well as a copy of *Louisiana Revised Statute 17:54 (2022) – Officers of boards, election; superintendents, qualifications, appointment and removal*. It was suggested the Board review and discuss the information and schedule a second meeting to take action.

### **Announcements:**

1. Date of Next Meeting – October 3, 2023

### **Superintendent's Report:**

1. Enrollment  
Mr. Stroder provided the Board with a history of City of Baker School System enrollment dating back to August 2010. The last time there was an increase in student enrollment was in August 2016. All other years showed a decrease in enrollment except for this year (August 2023) where there was an increase of 72 students.

### **Adjournment:**

On motion of Mrs. Perkins seconded by Mrs. Profit, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Voting yes: Perkins, Profit, Butler, Joseph, and Burges. Voting no: None.